me, of the order of over Rs. 10 crores. Altogether 89 projects with an outlay of Rs. 8.5 crores have been approved under IPEC and are in different stages of implementation.

The National Child Labour Project has also been concurrently under implementation in 12 different areas of the country to take children out of employment in several industries—lass, brass-ware, locks, carpet, slate, tiles, match and fireworks, gems, chemicals and beedi. The National Labour Institute has been undertaking employment-specific studies on the status of children engaged in different employments and these studies give valuable inputs for formulating and implementing programmes for elimination of child labour.

Regional meetings of State Labour Ministers have been held in the months of September and October, 1994 and in these meetings the States have been urged to prepare their own action plans.

In all the programmes relating to child labour elimination, non-Government organisations are being involved in a big way.

No separate data are being maintained industry-wise regarding child labour employment.

Central Legislation for Agricultural Labour

*7 SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a Central legislation for agricultural labour; if so, by when; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The proposal for a Central legislation for agricultural workers is under active consideration of the Government.

Private sector in captive coal mining

*8. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for the induction of the private sector in captive mining indicating guidelines/criteria laid down in this regard;

(b) how many private companies were selected by the Screening Committee indicating also for which purpose these companies were allocated coal mining blocks; and

(c) how many proposals were received/placed before the Committee, indicating composition of the Screening Committee and whether more meetings of the Committee are likely to be held in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1993 to allow private sector in coal mining for generation of power, for washing of coal obtained from a mine, or for other end uses to be notified by Government from time to time, in addition to the existing provisions for the production of iron and steel. A statement giving the criteria laid down in this regard is laid on the Table of the House. (*See below*).

(b) 12 private companies have been offered captive coal blocks by the Screening Committee. Nine of these companies were offered blocks for power generation, two for sponge iron production and one for pig iron production

(c) 36 proposals were received and placed before the Committee. A statement giving the composition of the Screening Committee is laid on the Table of the House. The Committee meets periodically.